

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket and at least one securing aperture for receiving a securing device, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades; and

at least one securing aperture extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the at least one securing aperture is in substantial alignment with a corresponding one of the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the securing device and fixedly positioning the cover plate with respect to

the receptacle;

the front surface of the cover plate containing a single line extending substantially in a rectangle around the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture, the front surface otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures;

the cover plate being a single component and being solid except for the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture.

2. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the line comprises an indented line indented relative to the remainder of the front surface.

3. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the line comprises a raised line raised relative to the remainder of the front surface.

4. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the front surface is substantially planar.

5. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein a substantial portion of the front surface is substantially planar.

6. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein a portion of the back surface is shaped to directly contact and be substantially flush with the face of the at least one socket.

7. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the back surface includes at least one thinned receiving area sized to receive the at least one socket of the receptacle such that the at least one receiving area receives and mates to the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

8. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the front surface covers the entire face of the at least one socket except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

9. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion corresponding to the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

10. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the front surface other than the indented line is substantially smooth.

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~~11~~. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the electrical outlet is disposed in a hole, and the front surface is sized to cover the entire hole except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the

receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

12. A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface for facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate and through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades;

the front surface containing a single line extending substantially in a rectangle around the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture, the front surface otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures;

the cover plate being a single, solid component except for the blade apertures.

13. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the line comprises an indented line indented relative to the remainder of the front surface.

14. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the line comprises a raised line raised relative to the remainder of the front surface.

15. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein a substantial portion of the front surface is substantially planar.

16. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the front surface is sized to cover the entire face of the at least one socket except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

17. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the front surface is sized to cover the entire face of the at least one socket except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket.

18. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion corresponding to the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

19. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the front surface other than the line is substantially smooth.

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20. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein a portion of the back surface is shaped to directly contact and be substantially flush with the face of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

21. The cover plate of claim 12, wherein the electrical outlet is disposed in a hole, and the front surface covers the entire hole except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

22. A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket and at least one securing aperture for receiving a securing device, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the at least two blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades; and

at least one securing aperture extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the at least one securing aperture is in substantial alignment with a corresponding one of the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the securing device and fixedly positioning the cover plate with respect to the receptacle;

the front surface of the cover plate containing a first region substantially rectangular in shape disposed about and including the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture and a second region which contains the portion of the front surface other than the first region, the front surface having a discontinuity between the first and second regions, the first region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures, and the second region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any apertures.

23. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the first region is elevated outwardly from the front surface relative to the second region.

24. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the first region is recessed inwardly from the front surface relative to the second region.

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25. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein each of the first and second regions of the front surface is substantially planar.

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26. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein a substantial portion of the second region is substantially planar.

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27. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the back surface includes at least one thinned receiving area sized to receive the at least one socket of the receptacle such that the at least one receiving area receives and mates to the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

28. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein a portion of the back surface being shaped to directly contact and be substantially flush with the face of the at least one socket.

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29. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the front surface covers the entire face of the at least one socket except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

30. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion corresponding to the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the

blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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22. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein each of the first and second regions of the front surface is substantially smooth.

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33. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein a portion of the back surface is shaped to directly contact and be substantially flush with the face of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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34. The cover plate of claim 22, wherein the electrical outlet is disposed in a hole, and the front surface is sized to cover the entire hole except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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35. A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface for facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate and through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades;

the front surface of the cover plate containing a first region substantially rectangular in shape disposed about and including the blade apertures and a second region which contains the portion of the front surface other than the first region, the front surface having a discontinuity between the first and second regions, the first region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures, and the second region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any apertures.

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36. The cover plate of claim ³⁴35, wherein the first region is elevated outwardly from the front surface relative to the second region.

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37. The cover plate of claim ³⁴35, wherein the first region is recessed inwardly from the front surface relative to the second region.

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38. The cover plate of claim ³⁴35, wherein each of the first and second regions of the front surface is substantially planar.

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39. The cover plate of claim 25, wherein a substantial portion of the second region is substantially planar.

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40. The cover plate of claim 35, wherein the back surface includes at least one thinned receiving area sized to receive the at least one socket of the receptacle such that the at least one receiving area receives and mates to the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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41. The cover plate of claim 35, wherein a portion of the back surface is shaped to directly contact and be substantially flush with the face of the at least one socket.

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42. The cover plate of claim 25, wherein the front surface covers the entire face of the at least one socket except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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43. The cover plate of claim 35, wherein the receptacle includes a face portion corresponding to the face of the at least one socket, and the front surface of the cover plate is sized to cover the entire face portion of the receptacle except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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44. The cover plate of claim 35, wherein each of the first and second regions of the front surface is substantially smooth.

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45. The cover plate of claim 35, wherein the electrical outlet is disposed in a hole, and the front surface is sized to cover the entire hole except for the blade apertures of the at least one socket and the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet.

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46. A cover plate for covering an electrical outlet, the electrical outlet including a receptacle having at least one socket and at least one securing aperture for receiving a securing device, each of the at least one socket including a face and a plurality of blade apertures for receiving plug blades, the cover plate comprising:

a front surface for facing outwardly from the electrical outlet and externally relative to the cover plate and a back surface facing toward the electrical outlet;

a plurality of blade apertures extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the cover plate so the blade apertures are in substantial alignment with the at least two blade apertures of the at least one socket when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the plug blades; and

at least one securing aperture extending through the cover plate through the front and back surfaces and positioned in the

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A97

cover plate so the at least one securing aperture is in substantial alignment with a corresponding one of the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle when the cover plate is affixed to the electrical outlet for receiving the securing device and fixedly positioning the cover plate with respect to the receptacle;

the front surface of the cover plate comprising a first region substantially rectangular in shape disposed about and including the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture and a second region which contains the portion of the front surface other than the first region, the front surface having a discontinuity between the first and second regions.